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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/614,190 Confirmation No. 6338  
Applicant : Y. TAKAMOTO et al  
Filed : July 8, 2003  
Title : NETWORK STORAGE SYSTEM  
TC/AU : TBD  
Examiner : TBD  
Docket No. : H-1105  
Customer No.: 24956

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop DD  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**  
**UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98**

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card

Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.

3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. A copy of each listed document is enclosed when needed.

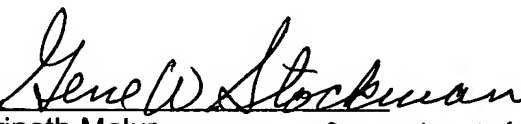
4. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

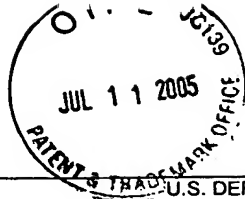
5. No explanation of relevancy is being provided for the following document(s) because each is either in the English language, discussed in the present Specification, or its relevance is as stated in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.

6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

for   
By Gene W. Stockman  
Shrinath Malur  
Reg. No. 34,663  
(703) 684-1120  
RN 21,021



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| FORM PTO-1449<br>(REV. 7-80)   | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>H-1105     | SERIAL NO.<br>10/614,190 |
| <b>LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  | APPLICANT<br>Y. TAKAMOTO et al |                          |
|  |  | FILING DATE<br>July 8, 2003    | GROUP                    |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| * EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT         | DATE     | NAME          | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>(If Appropriate) |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| AA                    | 2003/<br>0229690 | 12/11/03 | Kitani et al  |       |          |                                 |
| AB                    | 2004/<br>0010562 | 01/15/04 | Itonaga       |       |          |                                 |
| AC                    | 2004/<br>0078467 | 04/22/04 | Grosner et al |       |          |                                 |
| AD                    | 2005/<br>0071560 | 03/31/05 | Bolik         |       |          |                                 |
| AE                    |                  |          |               |       |          |                                 |
| AF                    |                  |          |               |       |          |                                 |
| AG                    |                  |          |               |       |          |                                 |
| AH                    |                  |          |               |       |          |                                 |
| AI                    |                  |          |               |       |          |                                 |
| AJ                    |                  |          |               |       |          |                                 |
| AK                    |                  |          |               |       |          |                                 |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|    | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION              |                          |
|----|----------|------|---------|-------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|    |          |      |         |       |          | YES                      | NO                       |
| AL |          |      |         |       |          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AM |          |      |         |       |          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AN |          |      |         |       |          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AO |          |      |         |       |          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AP |          |      |         |       |          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)**

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.